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Cond. 25. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein the time period between the first time instant and the second time instant is determined from the known distance and a velocity of the mobile object at the time the first and second images were sensed.

26. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein each of the first and second image data is recorded with information indicating where the image was sensed.—

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-11, 17, and 24-26 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 6, 10, 17, and 24 being independent. Claims 12-16 and 18-23 have been cancelled without prejudice. New Claims 24-26 have been added, which Applicants submit do not contain any new matter.

Claims 1-5, 10-16, 20, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,517,419 (Lanckton et al.). Claims 6-9, 17, 21, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Lanckton et al. taken in combination with U.S. Patent No. 5,633,946 (Lachinski et al.). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons discussed below.

As discussed in the specification at, for example, page 3, lines 10-22, in order to attain precise interpolation on the basis of images obtained using a plurality of cameras, the image sensing centers of many cameras must agree with each other. However, it is not easy to arrange several cameras in such a way. For example, in the case of using a mirror layout as shown in Fig. 2 of the application, it is difficult to prevent the vehicle from being reflected in the mirrors.

The present invention recited in the pending claims is directed to addressing such problems and does so by arranging a first and second image sensing means separately and compensating for the distance between them. As recited in Claims 1, 6, and 17, the present invention includes the feature, *inter alia*, of recording first and second image data (sensed by first and second image sensing means) with information based on the known distance between the first and second image sensing means and the velocity of a vehicle. As recited in Claim 10, the present invention includes, among others, the feature of associating image data read by a first reader and image data read by a second reader based on time duration information based on the known distance between a first and second image sensing means and a velocity of a vehicle.

Due to these features, the present invention of Claims 1-11 and 17 enables determination of exact information about time differences and relative positions between images taken by a plurality of cameras located on a vehicle at different positions, irrespective of any changes in the movement of the vehicle. Accordingly, a high-quality panoramic image can be synthesized. Applicants submit that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least these features.

Applicants submit that Lanckton et al. does not disclose or suggest recording images with information based on a known distance between cameras and a velocity of the vehicle. Further, the camera system in that patent is not even directed to obtaining images suitable for synthesizing a panoramic image.

The Examiner has alleged that Lanckton et al. discloses recording information concerning the velocity of the vehicle. If the Examiner maintains this position, Applicants request that the Examiner kindly clarify where that patent discloses recording information based on a known distance between cameras and a velocity of the vehicle.

Lachinski et al. merely discloses that a selected camera is changed when a vehicle reverses direction. That patent fails to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Lanckton et al.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the present invention recited in Claims 1, 6, 10, and 17 is patentable over the cited art.

The dependent claims recite additional features that even further distinguish the present invention from the cited art. Further individual consideration of those claims is requested.

New Claims 24-26 recite, *inter alia*, the feature of retrieving image data sensed at a first time instant and a second time instant, where the second time instant is a time occurring after the first instant by a time period corresponding to a known distance between the first image sensing means and the second image sensing means. Applicants submit that none of the cited art discloses or suggests at least that feature.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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